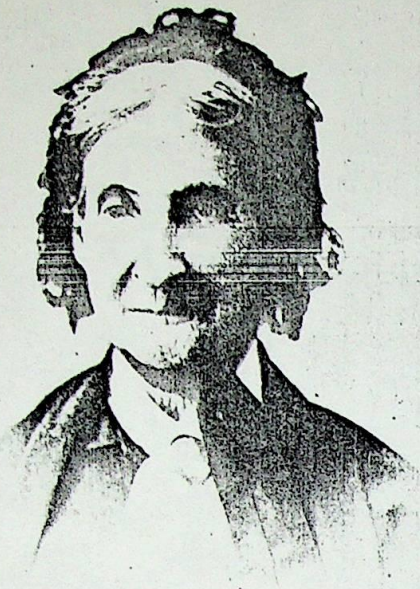


Betty Bane Szalbi
May 29, 2001
from B. Markwood

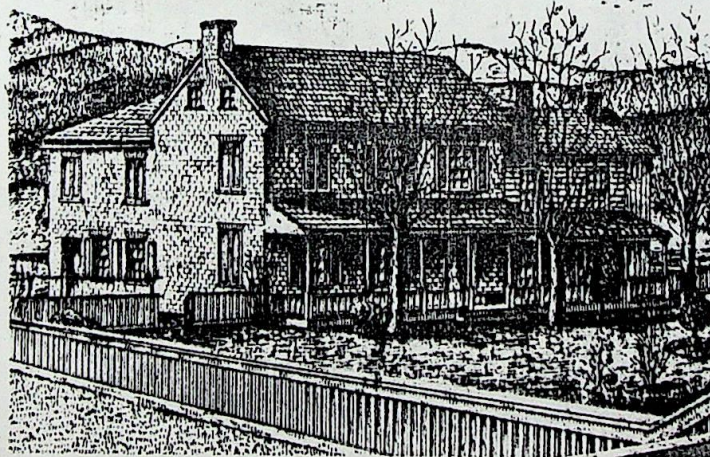


Silas and Maria Burns
Rees Home

Built by them about the year 1836 near Rees Tannery, what was then Hampshire County, Virginia, now changed to Mineral County, West Virginia. The surroundings of the home are in a beautiful mountain section; with Newcreek, a clear stream running parallel to the highway for miles. This is a photograph of original pen sketch drawn by Mr. William King, head artist of United States Geological Survey.



Maria Burns, daughter of William Howard Burns and Philadelphia Burbridge. Born in Hampshire County, Virginia, July 14, 1798. Married Silas Rees November 26, 1820. They lived for sixteen years in Westport Maryland; now known as Westport. Moved to New Creek, Virginia, in 1836, remained in home until her death July 20, 1897. Buried on old home place. A mother of eight children, a person of unusual energy and mental ability.



Silas Rees, son of William and Elenor Davis Rees. Born on Patterson Creek, Hampshire County, Virginia, April 7, 1797. Married Maria Burns, November 26, 1820. Lived in Maryland for sixteen years, moved to New Creek, Virginia in 1836 and built the home herein mentioned. Was brutally beaten by Union Soldiers and died from these injuries three days thereafter. Buried in old home place May 10, 1865. A kindly sincere gentleman with consideration of others, retaining the Quaker ideals.